

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

# THE VIGILEER

Vol. 52 No. 13

April 14, 2006

Aviano Air Base, Italy

## Fly Bys

### Focus group

The 31st Medical Group obstetrics clinic and the Early Developmental Intervention Services host a focus group at 6 p.m. April 26 in the Life Skills Support Center, Bldg. 108 in Area One. Pregnant women or parents with a child under the age of three are invited to attend and talk about ways to improve community services. For more information, call the OB clinic at Ext. 5863 or the New Parent Support Program at Ext. 5667.

### Spouse It Up

The next Spouse It Up is at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in Area D. The event is open to all spouses and family members and includes an Easter egg hunt with money eggs for spouses. For more information, call the Family Support Center at Ext. 5407.

### Volunteer picnic

To help recognize Aviano volunteers, the 31st Fighter Wing is hosting a free volunteer picnic at noon April 21 in Area D. For more information, call Sylvia Flores at Ext. 5658.



Photo by Airman Liliana Moreno

Airman 1st Class Keri Likes, 31st Security Forces Squadron, checks a driver's identification at the main gate here. During their daily routine, security forces members check IDs, patrol the area and keep Aviano secure.

## Gate running drives new policy

By 1st Lt. S.K. Nielsen  
USAFE Public Affairs

Wing commanders across USAFE will now be able to suspend driving privileges of offenders who fail to follow proper installation entry procedures.

This new initiative is a result of several incidents involving inattentive drivers either driving onto installations without having

their credentials properly checked or failing to follow the instructions of entry controllers.

"Once IDs are checked and you are granted access to the installation, ensure you follow the direction of the entry controller," said Col. David Martinez, Deputy Chief Headquarters USAFE Security Forces. "The ID check is only one part of the installation entry

**See Gate, Page 7**

**Gate hours:** Due to Italian holidays, Gate 10, known as the contracting gate, will be closed Monday, April 25 and May 1.

### 31st FW Sortie Board

**sortie:** n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	473.1	347
	<b>12.6</b>	<b>16</b>

Information current as of Thursday.



### World's Finest

Two 31st Maintenance Squadron members, recently named best in their Air Force career fields, share their success stories.

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### Duty calls

To help Aviano children understand what their parents do downrange, some students went through a mock deployment.

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## 31st Fighter Wing

# Commander's Corner



**B**uona Pasqua! World's Finest Warriors –

Hope you all had a great week...I certainly did. I've been out of town for the past few weeks and haven't been able to sit down long enough to put pen to paper. This week we'll have to play catch up so settle in and let's begin...

First I'd like to thank you all for outstanding support for the Air Force Assistance Fund – we raised 131 percent of our goal, \$104,800 – World's Finest Standard – and showed the depth of our caring yet again. Thanks to all for your generosity and caring for our own – widows, retired, in essence those in need of help. There's no greater courage than making a sacrifice for a fellow human being – whether the sacrifice is physical, fiscal, or otherwise. Great job!

On the ops side – we found out this week that our own Captain Vargas, of the 555th Fighter Squadron, earned the USAF Jabara Award. The James Jabara award annually recognizes academy graduates whose significant contributions to the Air Force set them apart from their contemporaries. While Captain Vargas' contributions over the past year were vast, as he played a key role in the 555th FS winning the "Best Fighter Squadron in USAFE" award and the "Excalibur" Fighter Gunnery competition, his most noteworthy accomplishment occurred during combat. In combat over Iraq, when he discovered a convoy under attack, he flew directly over the suspected enemy locations at high speed and low altitude while expending flares. This caused the enemy to stop engaging and allowed the convoy to move to safety – very likely saving the lives of our troops on the ground. We should all take pride in "Vegas" Vargas' outstanding accomplishment, commitment to duty, and willingness to put himself in harm's way to help his brothers and sisters on the ground. Congratulations to Captain Vargas – one of our own and truly one of the World's Finest!

Next I will cover news. On next Wednesday, April 19 at 10:30 a.m., Barb and the family support center will host the latest "Spouse It Up" at Area D. There will be an egg hunt for the children (of all ages!), great food, camaraderie and the price is right (no charge!). Today we will roll out the new marquee – the huge 'obelisk' in front of the Commissary/BX complex. This marquee is 'not your father's marquee' – its full color,

capable of putting on a real show with billions of megapixels powered by a like number of megawatts! We'll use it to showcase the World's Finest achievements – photos from graduations, upcoming events, award winners – **you** name it. If **you**'ve got something **you**'d like to see on the marquee – it's **your** marquee; all of **yours** – contact Public Affairs at 632-7555. And drive carefully as you pass by – it's serious eye candy!

Now our history lesson for the month – from George Mason. Many of you will recognize the name due to the success of the George Mason University basketball team during the NCAA Men's Tournament. However, this entry is from George Mason himself – a signatory of the Declaration of Independence and one of our Founding Fathers. The subject is the price and value of liberty; the venue is his last will and testament; the intended recipients of the guidance, his sons. He wrote:

"If... (you) should engage in public affairs, I charge (you), on a father's blessing, never to let the motives of private interest or ambition to induce (you) to betray, nor the terrors of poverty and disgrace, or the fear of danger or of death deter (you) from asserting the liberty of their country, and endeavoring to transmit to (your) posterity those sacred rights to which (yourselves) were born."

George Mason understood the value of liberty and the necessity of defending same. He knew that it wouldn't come cheap, and the price would unfortunately, unavoidably, and of necessity be paid in the form of human lives. We are the current generation paying the price that Mr. Mason charged his sons to be willing to pay in his last written guidance to them. Be proud that you are the 21st Century inheritants of his charge; take his charge seriously, and meet its every requirement with pride in your heritage and the good you are doing for your nation and our world.

This weekend – if you travel, do so safely. If you drink, do not drive. Enjoy a well deserved Family Day today...you've earned it. Buona Pasqua, Happy Easter, Happy Passover, and/or just plain have a good weekend, World's Finest! God Bless and all the best from Barb and me to you and yours!

“ Take [George Mason's] charge seriously, and meet its every requirement with pride in your heritage and the good you are doing for your nation and our world. ”

# Radiology flight upgrades X-ray capabilities



Courtesy photo

Maj. (Dr.) Danielle Eigner, 31st Medical Operations Squadron clinician, reviews an X-ray with Maj. (Dr.) Gary Miller, 31st MDSS radiologist, using the new computer-based system. The system allows X-rays to be transmitted electronically and allows technicians to improve X-ray image quality.

**By Senior Airman  
Colleen Wronek**  
*31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

The 31st Medical Support Squadron radiology flight has transitioned its X-ray capabilities from film to digital.

The new system allows patients to take X-ray copies on film or CD to their next PCS destination or to outside providers.

It also enables physicians to access exams on a computer and electronically transmit X-rays to remote specialists for second opinions.

"We don't have to chase films now," said Maj. (Dr.) Gabriel Zimmerer, 31st Medical Operations Support Squadron family practice physician. "Previously, after the X-rays were taken, they would be hand-carried from radiology to family practice and routed into my in box. Along the way they could be stopped, delayed or misplaced. Now I am able to pull up the films on my computer instantly

after the exam."

Because the new system is computer-based, doctors can lighten or zoom in on an area of the image.

"The technology allows me to manipulate the images to better evaluate subtle or small findings," said Dr. (Maj.) Gary Miller, 31st MDSS radiologist. "I can adjust the image contrast or magnify an area of particular interest. I can electronically place various markings on the X-rays and take measurements of length or angle. It is fantastic technology and a marked improvement from the old system all around."

Dr. Miller said the new system makes his job more efficient and reduces fatigue. "It allows me to keep my eyes on the images for a longer period of time instead of on pieces of paper, files or doing menial tasks associated with tracking, hanging or filing films," he said.

The new system also improves

**See X-ray, Page 7**

**Where's lunch?** The Mensa is closed Monday, April 24 and 25, but the La Bella Vista Club will be open for lunch on those days.

## Overseas citizens get two-month tax filing extension

U.S. citizens living overseas get an automatic two-month extension to file their taxes if they are receiving a refund. People who owe money must pay by Monday.

Servicemembers in a combat zone during tax season get an automatic six-month extension to file their taxes by the time they leave the combat zone.

The following is a list of Unit Tax Advisors:

- **31st Aerospace Medicine Squadron:** Master Sgt. Robert Ramsey, Ext. 5219

- **31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron:** Staff Sgt. Naomi Woolfod-Drakes, Ext. 4335; Senior Airman Anthony Hawkins, Ext. 8577; Airman 1st Class Jess Roach, Ext. 8578

- **31st Civil Engineer Squadron:** Master Sgt. Kirk Anderson, Ext. 7530; Master Sgt. Don Knight, Ext. 8215; Tech Sgt. Chad Moore, Ext. 5702; Staff Sgt. Roderick Moore, Ext. 5795; Senior Airman Eric Hunt, Ext. 8215

- **31st Contracting Squadron:** Capt. Melinda Reeder, Ext. 8032

- **31st Comptroller Squadron:** Airman 1st Class Serena Cardenas, Ext. 7107; Airman 1st Class Tyler Wallace, Ext. 8692

- **31st Communications Squadron:** 2nd Lt. Andrea Beltran, Ext. 7329; Master Sgt. Joesph Schwartz, Ext. 4302; Airman

1st Class James Headrick, Ext. 7142

- **31st Dental Squadron:** Capt. Nathan Krivitzky, Ext. 5060; Master Sgt. Courtney Graham, Ext. 5476

- **31st Fighter Wing:** Tech. Sgt. Rosalyn Anderson, Ext. 7399; Tech. Sgt. Marcia Caston, Ext. 7843; Jim Ketchum, Ext. 7843

- **31st Logistics Readiness Squadron:** Tech. Sgt. Jesse Maki, Ext. 7488; Staff Sgt. Kelly Mayberry, Ext. 8466; Staff Sgt. Soumaly Orlando, Ext. 7062; Staff Sgt. Brandi Wheeler, Ext. 7382; Staff Sgt. Scott Young, Ext. 7404; Senior Airman Danielle Garzona, Ext. 8888

- **31st Medical Operations Squadron:** Capt. Beverly Clark, Ext. 5419; Capt. Patti DeMotts, Ext. 5338; Tech. Sgt. Richard Tangen, Ext. 5209; Staff Sgt. Amber Humelshheim, Ext. 5888

- **31st Medical Support Squadron:** Capt. Patrick Misnick, Ext. 5357; Master Sgt. Virginia Wimmer, Ext. 5519

- **31st Maintenance Operations Squadron:** Master Sgt. Mitchell Rodgers, Ext. 8620; Tech. Sgt. Eric Markel, Ext. 8684; Staff Sgt. James Castillo, Ext. 8763

- **31st Maintenance Squadron:** Master Sgt. Mark Kanitz, Ext. 7305; Tech. Sgt. Paul Kelsey, Ext. 8644; Staff Sgt. Eva Graney, Ext. 7511; Staff Sgt. Eric Hill, Ext. 8642; Staff Sgt. David McCauley,

Ext. 7492; Staff Sgt. Amanda Mowrey, Ext. 7544; Staff Sgt. Ericka Rollins, Ext. 4664; Senior Airman Jose Marquez-Rivera, Ext. 4102

- **31st Mission Support Squadron:** Capt. Erin Hancock, Ext. 8100; Tech. Sgt. Crescencio Kerby, Ext. 7496

- **31st Operations Support Squadron:** Airman 1st Class Edward Nagao, Ext. 4428

- **31st Security Forces Squadron:** Airman 1st Class Raquel Figueroa, Ext. 4858; Harvey Bullock, Ext. 7155

- **31st Services Squadron:** Staff Sgt. Kendall Mills, Ext. 4040

- **401st Air Expeditionary Wing:** Maj. Lea Homstad, Ext. 4687

- **603rd Air Control Squadron:** Staff Sgt. Kristopher Clark, Ext. 4033; Staff Sgt. Joe Gordon, Ext. 8979; Staff Sgt. Shawn Remington, Ext. 4010; Staff Sgt. Olivia Wanzo, Ext. 4029; Senior Airman Randy Judy, Ext. 4010; Senior Airman Justin Oaks, Ext. 4012; Senior Airman Roberto Pena, Ext. 8979; Airman 1st Class Wayland Wong, Ext. 4253

- **724th Air Mobility Squadron:** Master Sgt. Kim Karolchuk, Ext. 4411; Staff Sgt. Darius Sylvester, Ext. 7771; Senior Airman Candis Myers, Ext. 7680; Airman 1st Class Rebecca Miller, Ext. 8242

- **Bravo Company:** Capt. William Phillips, Ext. 8712; Marion Harris, Ext. 7848



## ESOHHCAMP team assesses base

**By Senior Airman Sarah Gregory**  
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Environmental, Safety, Occupational and Health Compliance Assessment and Management Program team performed their annual assessment April 3-7 here.

The team, consisting of 22 Aviano members, found 11 major findings and 167 minor findings. Each finding is an area of non-compliance with an environmental or safety Air Force Instruction. While the number of findings might seem alarming, Capt. Daniel Barossa, 31st Aerospace Medical Squadron deputy environmental flight chief, said that findings are actually a good thing.

"ESOHHCAMP is set up to assess findings. They identify areas of non-compliance for the purpose of getting funds for compliance and correcting situations," he said. "They give us an idea of how healthy our ESOH programs actually are."

Thirteen AFIs govern environmental compliance protocols. This year marked the first year that Aviano, as required by U.S. Air Forces in Europe,

incorporated safety and occupational aspects into the assessment.

"This is a way to increase the performance and effectiveness of Aviano's environmental processes," said Captain Barossa.

Every three years, Aviano is assessed by an external USAFE team with the next USAFE assessment scheduled for 2008. In between external visits, an internal team, comprised strictly of Aviano members completes the assessment, which Captain Barossa said could also lead to increased findings.

"Internal inspection teams usually find more than external teams because the assessors are from here and they know what to look for," he said. "Internals are more in-depth and that's what helps Aviano, because the more the inspectors find, the more they can fix."

The most important thing about the assessment, Captain Barossa said, is that it's not an inspection and there's no pass or fail.

The findings will be tracked for the next year and the goal is to have all significant findings taken care of before next year's assessment.

## X-ray, from page 5

the efficiency and work flow of radiology technicians. "The system is smoother and faster. We no longer have to manually process our films in a darkroom," said Staff Sgt. Erik Skaggs, 31st MDSS radiology technician. "We can X-ray patients faster, reducing their wait times, and it allows us to provide more attention directly to the patient rather than the process."

In less than a minute, the new technology can process an X-ray and load it into the computer.

"It's less impact on the environment because we aren't disposing darkroom chemicals," said Tech. Sgt. Gregory Ramacciotti, 31st MDSS diagnostic imaging NCOIC. "It's quicker because we aren't waiting for an image to develop, and we can control the image quality."

The new process also reduces retakes for overexposure and underexposure and, since the data is in the computer, the X-ray won't get lost.

All X-ray exams are permanently stored in the 31st Medical Group computer system and will always be available in case another provider needs access to them, Dr. Miller said.

"The utility of this technology is enormous," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) John Degoes, 31st MDOS commander "Our handful of radiologists within the main [U.S. Air Forces in Europe] medical clinics will now be able to extend immediate radiological interpretation to all smaller outlying clinics that previously waited days to weeks for film in the mail or relied on local national interpretation."

"This system will result in more accurate, prompt and efficient health care for our beneficiaries scattered throughout the European continent."

**Parking:** The 31st Security Forces Squadron is enforcing Aviano parking rules. People must ensure they park in designated slots.

## Gate, from page 1

procedure and does not mean you have been granted access and can drive away from the gate."

When entering any installation entry control point, everyone in the vehicle needs to be ready to present identification and follow the instructions of the entry controller. Because of the elevated force protection condition, USAFE installations require a 100 percent ID check of everyone in the vehicle who is old enough to carry a military ID card. Children age 10 and older must carry an ID card.

Unauthorized entry incidents carry a punishment ranging from points on your driving record to loss of driving privileges for up to 15 days.

Security forces personnel are committed to protecting and defending our people and installations in a professional manner, said Colonel Martinez. Individuals entering our installations are expected to treat security forces personnel, augmentees, host nation personnel or contract personnel at the gates with the respect and courtesy.



## Hitting the high notes

Members of the Cantanti Dell Inno group perform at a 31st Fighter Wing function at the La Bella Vista Club. The group sings both the U.S. and Italian national anthems at formal ceremonies, wing events, changes of command, retirements and promotions. The Cantanti Dell Inno needs new singers to replace those PCSing this spring and summer. Those interested should e-mail Senior Airman Rodney Mays at [rodney.mays@aviano.af.mil](mailto:rodney.mays@aviano.af.mil).

# Air Force awards two of Aviano's own

## Maintenance NCO, Airman earn "best in service" recognition

**Story and photos  
by Senior Airman  
Sarah Gregory**  
31st Fighter Wing  
Public Affairs

**T**wo of Aviano's maintenance Airmen were recently named tops in the Air Force.

For their munitions support to the 31st Fighter Wing, Tech. Sgt. Chris Lakkala and Senior Airman Donald Bartleson, both with the 31st Maintenance Squadron, were awarded the Air Force Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez award.

As a 31st MXS munitions storage crew chief, Airman Bartleson is one of the supervisors responsible for explosive operations including the storage, handling, delivery and shipment of munitions. Airman Bartleson also serves as the primary point of contact for munitions being shipped out of or inbound to Aviano.

Described by his supervisor



Tech. Sgt. Chris Lakkala, 31st Maintenance Squadron, has been in the Air Force for 11 years and deployed three times. When he can, Sergeant Lakkala enjoys restoring classic cars.

as dynamic, a self-starter and a pacesetter, Airman Bartleson has worked diligently on his personal and professional growth.

"Airman Bartleson's unwavering initiative has never failed his leadership and he has an unrelenting positive attitude," said his supervisor, Tech. Sgt. Greg Pierce, 31st MXS assistant NCOIC of munitions storage.

Although he has accomplished a lot during his time in the service, Airman Bartleson said his best Air Force memories were during his deployment to Iraq.

"I had a chance to learn a lot about my job and the mission," he said. "I got a lot of experience being there, along with being able to meet a lot of different people."

During his deployment to Balad Air Base, Iraq, Airman Bartleson participated in 3,000 deliveries totaling 100 tons of ammunition with no mishaps. During his deployment he also helped clear space for a munitions revetment construction project. Through his efforts, Airman Bartleson helped double the available munitions storage capacity at Balad and allowed a second runway to open, saving the Air Force \$1.8 million and two years of time.

Winning the Air Force Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez award in the Airman category was a way for Airman Bartleson and his team to be recognized for their hard work.

"I was surprised to find out I won, because I work with so many great ammo troops. We all have to work as a team," he said. "To me, this award shows me that strong, hard work pays off. And it motivates me to continue doing great work, and to becoming more and more successful."

It should be no surprise that Airman Bartleson has accomplished many things and

been a contributor to the success of the 31st MXS given his work ethic.

"An Airman should be professional, because professionalism keeps you on the ball, it leads to great work and it sets a good example for everyone else," he said. "Also, an Airman should be motivated, because being motivated will lead you to wanting to learn new things, and it will make you more efficient in training others."

Airman Bartleson carries over that professionalism and dedication into all aspects of his career and other areas such as community involvement. He completed his career development courses nine months ahead of the average time and earned higher than a 90 on both end-of-course exams. He also spends time volunteering for Airman Against Drunk Driving and helping out at maintenance functions such as the Maintenance Professional of the Year banquet.

Another top 31st MXS performer, Tech. Sgt. Chris Lakkala was selected as the Air Force's Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez award winner in the technical supervisor category.

"Sergeant Lakkala is the most meticulous technician and supervisor I've ever come across," said Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Bowen, 31st MXS production superintendent. "He is extremely dedicated and hard working, has an exceptionally high degree of integrity and I can always count on him to get the job done right the first time and in the least amount of time possible."

As a supervisor for a unit that maintains \$180 million worth of munitions, Sergeant Lakkala has an important job. His unit is responsible for testing and assembling the bombs, accounting for them and making sure they remain serviceable.

"I chose this career field because the description sounded interesting and, overall, it's been pretty interesting," he said. "When you deploy, you



Senior Airman Donald Bartleson, 31st Maintenance Squadron, hopes that in the next 10 years, he and his wife have children and own a house where it's warm.

send the bombs out and most of the time, they don't come back with the aircraft. This really allows us to see our job in action and it's really exciting."

Sergeant Lakkala's passion for the job is shown in his long list of accomplishments. He supported 8,600 training sorties and managed production of aircraft munitions and equipment worth \$192.1 million. Sergeant Lakkala also led inspections on 350 joint direct attack munitions, worth \$7 million, and repaired 60 critical components which saved the Air Force more than \$120,000.

Like Airman Bartleson, Sergeant Lakkala carries his enthusiasm for the job into everything he does. His devotion to his troops is demonstrated by serving as the ammunitions booster club president and in his mentorship; Sergeant Lakkala has successfully mentored 15 Airmen and certified all Airmen in the ammunitions shop.

"In my opinion, Sergeant Lakkala is a future ammo chief," said Sergeant Bowen. "I'd go to war with him anytime, anywhere and any place without hesitation."

## Med group closure

The 31st Medical Group clinic in Area One is closed today for a U.S. Air Forces in Europe family day. The clinic will have extended care hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For emergencies, go to the Pordenone Emergency Room or the closest ER. For life-threatening emergencies, call 118. The Nurse Health Care Information line is available at 800-877-660 toll free from any Italian phone line.

## Heating and cooling

As required by Italian law, the 31st Civil Engineer Squadron is turning off heating systems Monday. Cooling systems will be turned on beginning May 1. For more information, call 31st CES customer service at Ext. 5636.

## Easter brunch

The La Bella Vista Club is hosting an Easter brunch with seatings at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday and must be reserved beforehand. To make a reservation, call Ext. 4303.

## Thrift shop

The Aviano Thrift Shop

is closed through Monday. The thrift shop is now taking spring and summer clothing for consignment. Consignment hours are 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Donations are accepted from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday.

## Heritage month

Volunteers are needed for activities and planning during May's Asian/Pacific Heritage Month. Meetings are at 3 p.m. Tuesdays in the La Bella Vista Club. For more information, call Master Sgt. Lorenzo Steele Ext. 2342 or Senior Master Sgt. Gil Corpuz at Ext. 7635.

## Road closure

The perimeter road at Sierra Loop continues to be closed through Monday for underground utility work. Traffic will be routed the long way around the perimeter road and signs will be posted around the flightline. For more information, call Ext. 5800.

## Aggie Muster

Aviano Aggies will gather to celebrate Aggie Muster April 21, the anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto.

Plans include dinner and a small ceremony. For more information and to RSVP, call Capt. Justin Dalton at Ext. 4786.

## Parenting class

Due to spring break, the 1, 2, 3 Magic Parenting class will be held from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. April 26 at Bldg. 108 in Area One. For more information, call Family Advocacy at Ext. 5667.

## Housing closure

The housing management office will provide limited services and the furniture management warehouse will be closed on Monday and April 24 and 25 for Italian holidays. Requests to contact landlords may still be dropped off. For more information, call Ext. 7418.

## Family fair

The annual family fair celebrating "April: The Month of the Military Child" is April 29 in Hangar One. The fair is a day of informational and activity booths, as well as stage performances and food booths. For more information, call Ext. 5225.

## Tuition assistance

Online tuition assistance is mandatory for all active duty students. Airmen must visit the Air Force Portal at [www.my.af.mil](http://www.my.af.mil) to apply for TA. Airmen no longer have to visit the education center to request TA, but they must have a degree plan on file. Tuition assistance may only be used for courses which fit into a college degree program. Call the education center at Ext. 5330 for more information.

## Emergency cards

Airmen must designate someone as the person authorized to direct disposition of their remains. The designation is a required part of the member's Record of Emergency Data. Airmen can add their PADD information to their virtual record by following the instructions in the vMPF. For more information, call the military per-

sonnel flight at Ext. 7216.

## Youth awards

The congressional award program provides an opportunity for young people ages 14-23 to set and achieve personally challenging goals that build character and foster community service, personal development and citizenship. For information on how to participate in this program, call youth programs at Ext. 7575 or visit [www.congressionalaward.org](http://www.congressionalaward.org). Registration forms are available at the youth center, community center or on the Web site.

## Self-help

The 31st Civil Engineer Squadron self-help store has flowers, soil and mulch for GHRP housing residents. The materials will be available Monday. Vouchers will be given out for the material through the self-help store. For more information, call self-help at Ext. 5711 or 0434-30-5711.

## Coin contest

The Aviano Airman's Advisory Council is holding a coin designing contest open to everyone on base. Designs must have "Aviano Airman Advisory Council" somewhere on the coin, must have a logo or motto and must be in good taste. Designs should be submitted by May 31 to [AAAC@aviano.af.mil](mailto:AAAC@aviano.af.mil).

The winner will be announced at the next Airman's All Nighter June 30. The winner receives a letter of appreciation, a new AAAC coin and a \$100 scholarship. For more information, e-mail [aaac@aviano.af.mil](mailto:aaac@aviano.af.mil).

## NCO Association

The Dolomiti Noncommissioned Officer's Association is seeking volunteer members. The organization is actively involved in community events and advocates on behalf of enlisted men and women in the five branches of the U.S. armed forces. Any enlisted member can join the NCOA. For more information, e-mail [jose.barraza@aviano.af.mil](mailto:jose.barraza@aviano.af.mil) or visit [NCOAUSA.org](http://NCOAUSA.org).

## Reel Times

**Today, 7 p.m.** - "Running Scared" Rated R - Two 10-year-old boys get their hands on a mob gun which was used to shoot a cop. The father of one of the boys must take to the streets in a desperate bid to recover the weapon before the mob finds out it's missing. Starring: Paul Walker, Wayne Brady

**Saturday, 7 p.m.** - "Nanny McPhee" Rated PG - A new nanny enters the household of the recently-widowed Mr. Brown and attempts to tame his seven exceedingly ill-behaved children, who have managed to drive away the previous 17 nannies. Starring: Emma Thompson, Colin Firth

**Sunday, 2:30 p.m.** - "The Passion of the Christ" Rated R - A detailed accounting of the final hours and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Starring: James Caviezel, Maia Morgenstern

**Sunday, 7 p.m.** - "The Passion of the Christ" Rated R

**Wednesday, 7 p.m.** - "Running Scared" Rated R

**Thursday, 7 p.m.** - "Annapolis" Rated PG-13 - A young man from the wrong side of the tracks has his dream come true when he is accepted to the Naval Academy. Starring: James Franco, Jordana Brewster

*(Titles and times are courtesy of [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com), and are subject to change.)*

### Fly Bys

#### Easter egg hunt

An Easter egg hunt is from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at Parco Floriano, Polcenigo. To sign up or for more information, call Sylvia Flores at Ext. 5658 or e-mail her at [sylvia.flores@aviano.af.mil](mailto:sylvia.flores@aviano.af.mil).

#### Painting

"Pio Semeghini e il Chiarismo," a painting exhibit, is 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday until May 28 in medieval Mantua. For more information, visit [www.fondazione semeghini.it](http://www.fondazione semeghini.it) or [www.centropalazzote.it](http://www.centropalazzote.it).

#### Gorgazzo

The Springs of Gorgazzo waters are called "liquid sky" because of their ever-changing color. The springs are located off the mountain highway between Dardago and Polcenigo. The depth is unknown. For information, call 0434-92-1771.

#### Travel advisory

Aviano members should be aware of demonstrations planned in various parts of the country for the upcoming municipal elections in May. The Department of State advises U.S. citizens traveling or residing in Italy to avoid areas where crowds are expected to gather, take common-sense precautions and closely follow media reports. For up-to-date information, visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

## Visit the historic capital of Belgium

Story and photo by  
**Brittany Nedrow**  
*Aviano High School student*

**B**russels, Belgium, is home to great food and great attractions.

Founded in 979, the capital of Belgium has many museums and famous sites.

One such place is the Costume and Lace Museum, which displays fashion from the 18th century. Another is the Maison du Roi, or the museum of the city of Brussels. This museum is home to paintings, sculptures and other art telling the story of Brussels. It also holds the wardrobe of "Manneken-Pis," a well-known fountain of a boy.

Manneken-Pis is a popular tourist attraction. The fountain was built in the 15th century on the corner of Rue de L'Etuve and Stroofstraat. The statue of the boy has hundreds of costumes donated from all over the world and is sometimes dressed in them.

Besides the fountain, another popular tourist attraction is the Grand Place. The Grand Place is a large square surrounded by gothic architecture where markets, concerts and festivals take place.

For a little more modern tourist attraction, you can visit the Atomium, which was built for the 1958 World Fair. Designed like an atom, the Atomium has a museum and offers a great view of the city. For more information, visit [www.atomium.be](http://www.atomium.be).

Brussels also has an IMAX theater and Wallaby amusement park, which is similar to an American-style park.

After touring the city, visitors can enjoy many types of food from various cultures including Greek and Mexican. Visitors interested in Belgian waffles can get them from the many waffle stands throughout the city.

Chocolate stores are also in abundance. Some shops sell large bars and decorative



chocolates at affordable prices. Guild houses overlook Grand Place, which is a large square surrounded by gothic-style buildings. With markets, concerts, festivals as well as good restaurants and stores, Grand Place is the central hub of Brussels, Belgium.

chocolates at affordable prices.

Although Brussels is about a 12-hour drive from Aviano, the city offers plenty of things to make the trip worthwhile.

For more information, visit [www.brusselstourism.com](http://www.brusselstourism.com).

**ITT:** Information, Tickets and Travel offers customized tour packages to various destinations. For more information, call Ext. 5072 or 5026.



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Gregory

At **Medieval Times**, a restaurant in **Verona**, people eat like they are in the middle ages and enjoy a show that includes a jousting match.

## Information, Tickets and Travel

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Today through Sunday – Rome for Easter.
  - Saturday – Gardaland amusement park
  - Saturday – Croatia by boat
  - April 22 – Guided Verona and Medieval Times dinner show
  - April 22 – Guided San Marino
- ITT escorts ensure the group arrives

and departs from destinations as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area. Please note weather conditions and dress accordingly for trips. The ITT staff recommends wearing comfortable shoes because almost all tours involve walking.

Call Ext. 5072 or 5026 for more information.

## Aviano hosts super-cycling weekend



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Twenty-six cyclists from all over Europe line up for a 53 kilometer cycling race Sunday. The race was part of the 2006 U.S Forces in Europe Cycling Series.

**Right:** Bryan Schulte, NATO School, maneuvers through rough terrain at the U.S. Mountain Bike Series race Sunday. The course covered 34.4 kilometer through the pre-Dolomite mountains. James Sharp, former Armed Forces team member, edged out Aviano's Mark Naglack for a win time of one hour, 11 minutes and 15 seconds.

Aviano's Bradley Von Haug won the men's open road race and Mark Naglack won in the senior category. The next event in the U.S. Forces Europe Mountain Bike Series will be held at Vilseck, Germany April 30. For more information, visit [www.mwr-europe.com](http://www.mwr-europe.com).



Photo by Airman Nathan Doza

**Spinning:** Get fit with an indoor spin class at the Dragon Fitness Center. Call Ext. 7459 for details.

### Health Watch

**By Capt. (Dr.) Corbet Ellison**  
*31st Dental Squadron*

The benefits of a sports mouth guard have been well documented. A 1995 study on the high incidence of oral injuries showed that in football, where mouth guards are mandatory, only 0.07 percent of all injuries involved teeth and the oral cavity.

Conversely, in basketball where mouth guards are not worn, 34 percent of all injuries to players involved teeth or the oral cavity.

Sports mouth guards serve two purposes.

First they reduce the risk of injury to the teeth by distributing forces throughout the mouth.

Secondly, and perhaps most important, the mouth guard provides optimal separation between the mandible (lower jaw bone) and maxilla (upper jaw bone). This separation between the upper and lower jaw prevents the force from being transmitted to the base of the skull and causing a concussion or more serious brain injury.

A simple 'boil and bite' mouth guard can be purchased at the base exchange to eliminate these risks to the oral cavity. Your smile will love you for it. For more information, call Ext. 5060.

## Fly Bys

### Bike inspection

A free bicycle safety inspection and repair clinic is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the base exchange.

### Volksmarch

The Aviano Road Runners are participating in a Volksmarch to Vittorio Veneto at 8 a.m. Monday and to Colfrancui di Oderzo at 2:30 p.m. Monday. The group leaves from the Bar Municipio in Roveredo for both events. For more information, call Ext. 7692 or 7404.

### Umpires needed

Aviano Youth Programs is looking for umpires for youth baseball and softball. To volunteer or for more information, call Shalee Torrence at Ext. 4784 or e-mail [shalee.torrence@aviano.af.mil](mailto:shalee.torrence@aviano.af.mil).

### Dodgeball

The 31st Security Forces Squadron Spouses' Group hosts a dodgeball tournament from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday in the Dragon Fitness Center. Teams consist of at least six members and the cost per team is \$25. Volunteer referees are also needed. For more information or to sign up, call Jackie Jalomo at 347-041-5519 or Christine Hall at 392-142-8068.

### Bench press

Aviano hosts an inaugural bench press competition at 3 p.m. April 22 at the Dragon Fitness Center. The event will have seven weight classes for male and female lifters. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Alec Maund or Jennifer Kellner at Ext. 7574.

### Get certified

Aviano members interested in becoming a personal trainer can take a certification class from 5 to 9 p.m. June 1 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 2-4 at the Dragon Fitness Center. Participants must register by Saturday to get into the class. To register, call Jennifer Kellner at Ext. 7459.



# Happy Easter



Two-year-old Hokulea Card, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Bryan Card, 31st Maintenance Operations Squadron, shows off her Easter eggs.



Two-year-olds race to gather Easter eggs at the Easter egg hunt.



**Left:** Giorgio Caporaletti, son of Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti, 31st Communications Squadron, sees the prize inside an Easter egg he found at the hunt.

**Right:** Trinity Vaughan, daughter of Senior Airman William Vaughan, 31st Maintenance Squadron gives the Easter bunny a hug.



Susan Lear, community center director, tosses an egg while setting up for the Easter egg hunt. Children of all ages hunted for eggs throughout the day at the Spring Fest Easter Egg Hunt April 8 at Freedom Park.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti







Photo by Airman Liliana Moreno

Master Sgt. Eric Alber, 31st Mission Support Squadron, hands out boxed lunches to students participating in the children's mock deployment in Hangar One.

# Preparing for deployment

While they may not be actually deploying, some Aviano Elementary School students have parents who are deployed. To help them adjust and learn about what happens downrange, the children got to experience a day in the life of a deployed military member April 6.



Photo by Airman Nathan Doza

Kindergarten and first grade students learn how to march in formation during their deployment day.



Photo by Airman Nathan Doza

Aviano fifth graders show off their warrior faces during deployment day. The students painted their faces, learned how to march and experienced other pre-deployment routines military members go through during an Air Expeditionary Force rotation.



Photo by Airman Nathan Doza

Second graders Rebecca Hodgson and Kaitlyn Holzworth help each other while camouflaging their faces. The students also received demonstrations from the 31st Security Forces Squadron military working dogs and learned how to make sandbags.

# Pursuing education is good for health

By Lt. Col. Gordon Peters  
31st Aerospace Medical Squadron  
commander

At the risk of upsetting my wife, I want to tell you a little about myself and what I consider one of the greatest things about the Air Force.

I was born and raised on a farm in southern Michigan and the only jobs I ever had prior to entering the Air Force were all farm-related (this is the part that upsets my wife), so I think of myself as a humble farmer. Having said that, the Air Force afforded me, a farmer of meager means, countless opportunities usually reserved for those with more financial resources, such as traveling, great housing and great medical care (shameless plug).

However, the best opportunity has been education. At every turn, the Air Force ensured there was a course to attend or study via home study, either by books, or now, online. The Air Force even ensures that when necessary, we are allowed to either PCS or travel TDY to attend even further academic courses.

I am truly fortunate that I was able to earn an education from baccalaureate to doctoral level through the Air Force. With its myriad of educational programs, the Air Force has a method for nearly every Airman to pursue further education.

In addition to traditional academic pursuits, the Air Force has led the Department of Defense in ensuring that career-specific education can be rounded out to culminate in an associate's degree in an Airman's specialty. The Air Force went so far as to create its own community college in 1972.

Most people think the only benefit of the degree is that it helps with promotion and EPR bullets.

Those points are valid, but did you know that an associate's degree can pay immediate

dividends in the civilian sector? A 2003 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics review demonstrated that the average person with an associate degree averaged \$128 a week more than a person whose highest level of academic accomplishment is a high school diploma.

Additionally, the associate's degree can jumpstart the pursuit of the bachelor's degree, which also has significant benefits over the lifetime of an individual. In an article published in the Education Resources Information Digest in 2002, the average person with a bachelor's degree earns \$2.1 million over their lifetime, compared to \$1.2 million for high school graduates. If the compelling argument that education for education's sake doesn't snag you, the extra one million dollars should.

Besides the economic benefits, why should we pursue an education? In my years of service, I have seen Airmen be required to use computers to help increase productivity. Additionally, because of the leaner force we have become, we have seen our experience and knowledge requirements grow, forcing us to be more educated and able to learn and adapt. An educated workforce is essential to adapting to these changing times.

A 1998 Institute for Higher Education study demonstrated that college graduates enjoy higher levels of savings, increased personal and professional mobility and improved quality of life for their family members. When you look around your squadron, you will probably see evidence of all of the above. Lastly, it is a well-known public health fact that education leads to higher socioeconomic status, which leads to better health. To sum it up, pursuing education is good for your health.

I encourage you to seek that next highest educational degree, and then keep pressing on. Education is one of the factors that sets the Air Force apart from all other air forces in the world and we need to keep that trend going.



## The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

**Submission info:** We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

**Commentaries:** Writers can send commentaries to [vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:vigileer@aviano.af.mil). Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

**Kudos:** Aviano members can send congratulatory messages to [Vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:Vigileer@aviano.af.mil). Messages can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

**Deadline:** The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.

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## Recognizing The World's Finest

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• We would like to thank everyone who helped the youth basketball program to be a great success. We had committed coaches who contributed a tremendous effort of hard work and dedication to the program. Everyone did a wonderful job and we saw lots of improvement and talented players on the courts. Thanks again to everyone who helped make it a successful season. – *Aviano Youth Program Dream Team*

• Congratulations to the **555th Fighter Squadron** on its win at the 31st Fighter Wing Honorary Squadron Commandeur tournament held March 10 at the La Bella Vista Club.

• Congratulations to the following Airmen for their outstanding completion of their Career Development Courses: **Airman 1st Class Michael Allison**, 603rd Air Control Squadron; **Staff Sgt. Anthony Reyes**, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; **Staff Sgt. Melissa McKee**, 31st Services Squadron; and **Airman 1st Class Brian Kay**, 31st AMXS.

• The World's Finest took three out of four U.S. Air Forces in Europe Maintenance Training Awards for 2005. Congratulations to: **31st Maintenance Training Flight** – Maintenance Training Flight of the Year; **Tech. Sgt. Matthew Larson**, 31st Maintenance Operation Squadron – Maintenance Training Flight Supervisor of the Year; and **Tech. Sgt. Joseph Rohde**, 31st MOS – Maintenance Training Flight Instructor of the Year.